

**Support of Full Day Kindergarten
Senate Bill No. 123**

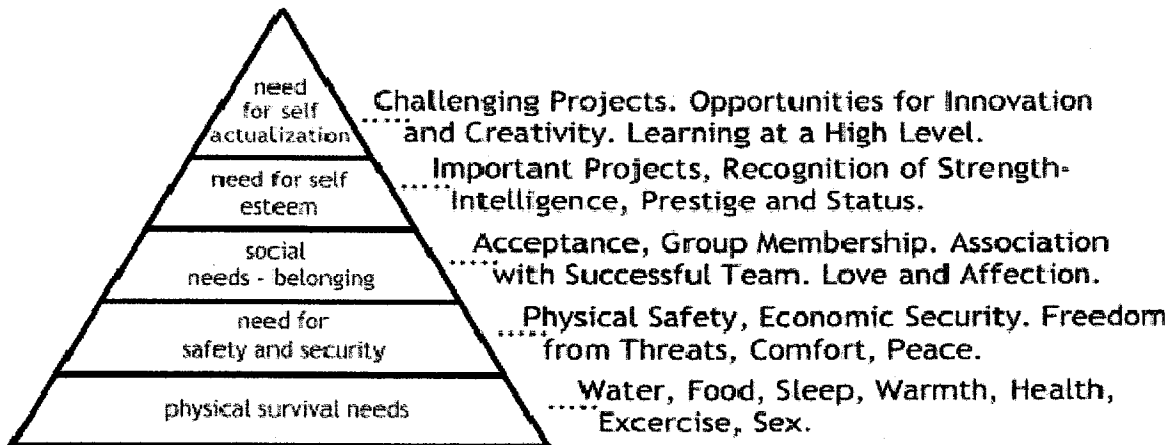
EXHIBIT NO. 18
DATE 1-10-07
BILL NO. SB123

Kristin Best, Program Manager for God's Love Family Transitional Center

Developmentally, children may be at varying emotional and psychosocial stages during preschool and kindergarten. These variations are even more scattered with children who have experienced past or current homelessness, as well as other socioeconomic stressors such as poverty, domestic abuse, child abuse, hunger, or alcohol and drug addiction within their immediate families.

Need

Motivation to Satisfy
Need



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Erik Erikson, former developmental psychologist, defined eight stages of development that humans move through during the life cycle.

1. The first stage occurs between birth and eighteen months. Children learn trust versus mistrust of primary caregivers. This stage is integral as the foundation for all other developmental stages. As infants, we learn whether we can or cannot trust our caregivers and our environment to keep us safe and meet our basic needs.
2. The second developmental stages occurs between ages 18 Months to 3 Years. Children learn to master their physical environment, develop a conscience, develop self esteem, develop self control, courage, and will.
3. The third developmental stage occurs between ages: 3 to 5 Years. Children begin to initiate play (rather than imitate or engage in parallel play). Children are beginning to act out adult roles that they experience in their daily lives and begin to define their "purpose."

Benefits to low income and homeless children:

- Increased exposure to an environment that is structured, predictable, safe, and routine.
- Increased access to more food resources.
- More exposure to social activities and ability to spend more time learning social skills.
- A head start on learning, including possible benefits for developmental growth.
- Early intervention (emotional, physical, and educational) for children who may need special education services.

Benefits to families:

- Less interruption of work schedules, especially for low wage earners.
- Less need for after school childcare or transportation to/from school and childcare.
- Reduced childcare expenses for families.
- Greater chance for earlier connection with community support services.

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SENATE EDUCATION

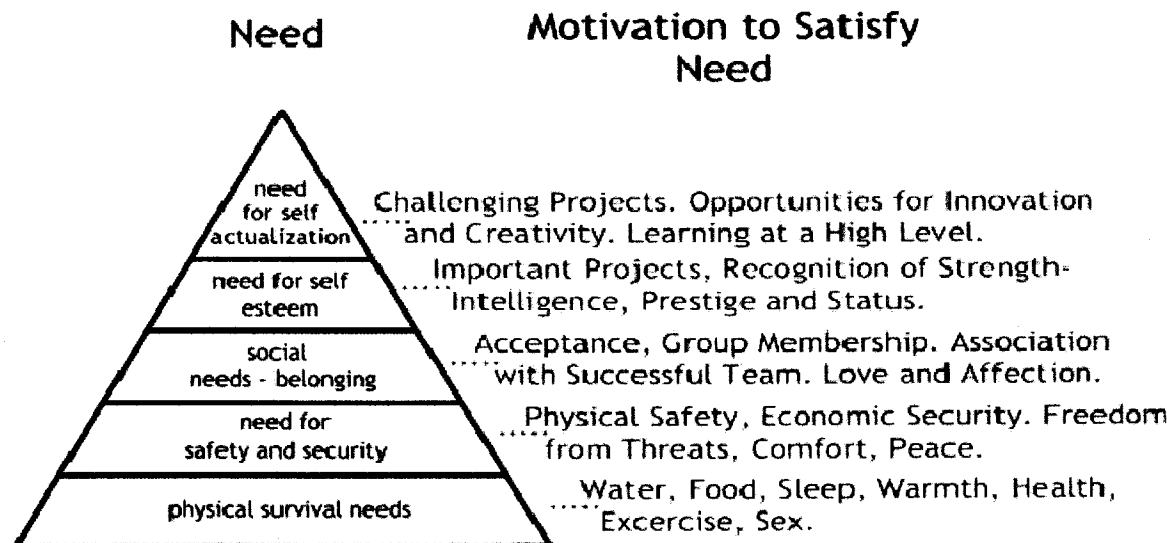
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Montana AMBASSADORS

The MONTANA AMBASSADORS
a volunteer, not-for-profit organization of leaders in business,
education, and the professions with a common dedication to
living and doing business in Montana and furthering the best
interests of the state serving at the pleasure of the Governor

January 8, 2007

**TO: SENATE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE
Sen. Don Ryan, Chair**

Re: SB123 Full Time Kindergarten

Montana Ambassadors is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization whose members include over 150 leaders in business, education, and government. As an organization, the Montana Ambassadors is dedicated to helping develop Montana's business environment. One of the Montana Ambassador's five missions is to: *"Develop relationships with educational institutions, agencies and systems that foster the economic vitality of Montana's work force and enhance the quality of life for its citizens."*

The Montana Ambassadors believe that workforce training is among the most pressing issues facing our state. We believe that workforce training is the lynchpin for Montana's future economic growth, and that one way to begin improving workforce training is to make all day kindergarten available to Montana students. If we start our young people out with the earliest educational opportunities possible, we will be establishing the foundation for their future learning and for their development of marketable skills.

The Montana Ambassadors strongly support efforts by the Office of Public Instruction and the Governor to fully fund all day kindergarten for those school districts who wish to join in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig Herbert
President

PO Box 722
Anaconda, Montana 59711
Ph: 406.563.5353 Fx: 406.563.5476
Email: gloria@montanaambassadors.com
<http://www.montanaambassadors.com>

Gloria O'Rourke

From: PSveinson@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 8:40 AM
To: gloria@montanaambassadors.com
Subject: Support for FT Kindergarden

I am a Montana native, now running a resort business and consulting in executive coaching from West Yellowstone following a 20 year career in executive management and human resource management in Minneapolis, MN. One of my areas of concern in both these endeavors has been to recruit people who are prepared to work with others.

All my experience and research on the topic of work readiness has shown that early childhood education is one of the primary predictors of work readiness and success as young people enter the full-time workforce. The education and socialization that children receive in the first 7 years of life are critical foundations to their abilities to interact effectively.

I heartily endorse FT kindergarden for Montana children.

Pamela Sveinson
Walhalla Enterprises, LLC
11505 Hebgen Lake Rd.
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

From: Bob Ebinger [mailto:buffalojump@ycsi.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 9:31 AM
To: gloria@medamembers.org
Subject: RE: [MT-AMB] Urgent action - Your comments needed - full timekindergarten bill

Gloria: I support full time kindergarten. Thanks. Bob ebinger

To our Legislators,

Despite how you or I may have grown up, despite what we think of the pace of technology, despite any perceptions we have about the future, and despite our educational backgrounds, we can be certain that today's children who are schooled early, who are schooled longer, and who have access to our professional teachers and educational system will excel in our increasingly complex and technical world.

Several years ago, I started a business in Montana – one that has gone on to employ over 50 people and whose products are now shipped to 10 states. During my tenure there, I hired many people and turned down even more. Education is critical to business in this state – both existing business and attracting new business. Quality employees, engaged citizens, and community leaders are born and developed in our schools. If we can strengthen our students by offering full-day kindergarten, I strongly support it.

I have two children, ages three and six. I have been fortunate to be able to afford pre-school for both of them and they are significantly advanced for their age as compared with students who do not have access to early childhood education. The state of Montana can do no larger favor to our future, than invest in our students. Students who attend and complete the tax-payer funded public schools in Montana are less likely to be incarcerated and more likely to find gainful employment than those who drop out. Education helps us in many ways. Early intervention is the key to success and full day kindergarten would provide a better chance to help those who need it.

Please support Full-day kindergarten.

Brad Robinson
1414 Flowerree St
Helena, Montana 59601
406-461-5655